

Missouri River

RECOVERY PROGRAM

2008-11

Save the Date and First Call for Papers - MRNRC Conference and BiOP Forum

March 25-27, 2009

Crowne Plaza in Billings, MT

Abstracts are due January 20, 2009.

"The Missouri River Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invite you to attend and present at the MRNRC Conference and BiOP Forum. The conference theme, 'Beyond the Bend' is intended to challenge us to think broader and further into the future with regard to mitigation, recovery, and restoration of the Missouri River. Are today's actions consistent with a vision of the river as more sustainable for fish and wildlife resources? Are the actions of today going to help us achieve the cultural, social, and economic needs of tomorrow? Are we broadening this vision to include the broader landscape and the tributaries which create the Missouri? Are we thinking of the river as a system or simply one bend? We invite you to join us in Montana as we begin to look 'Beyond the Bend.'"

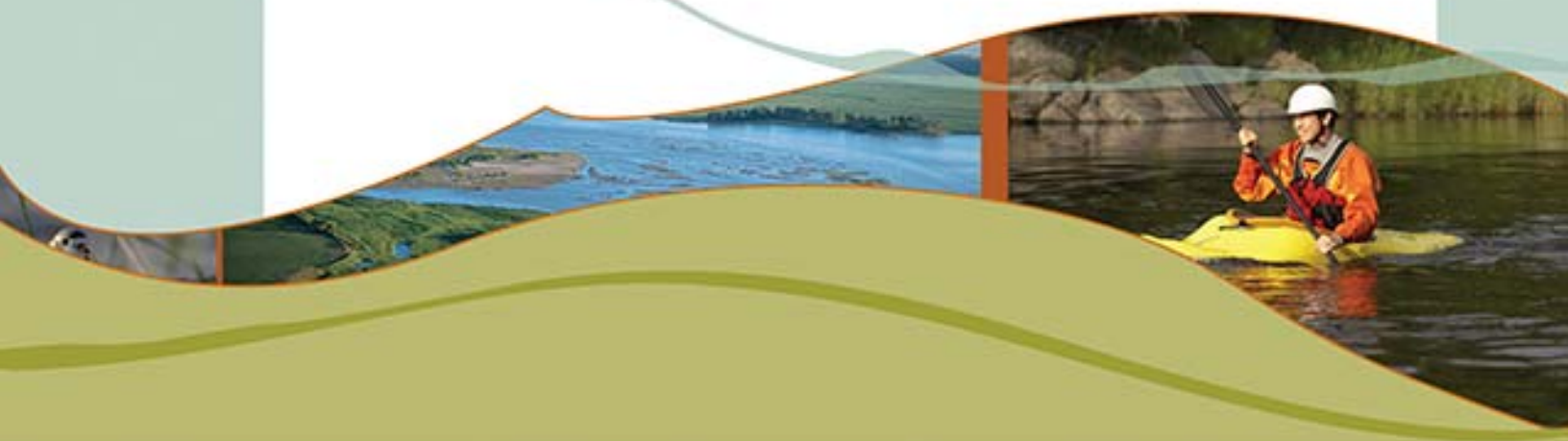
For more information visit <http://www.mrnrc2009.com/>

Questions should be directed to Don Skaar, dskaar@mt.gov, or Wayne Nelson-Stastny, wayne_nelsonstastny@fws.gov.

Cooperating Agency Meetings for MRERP

The series of Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (MRERP) meetings to invite participation on the Cooperating Agency Team were held throughout the basin and finished in mid October. An additional meeting will occur in early December in Rapid City, S.D.

As of November 4, formal letters accepting Cooperating Agency status have been received from the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Geological Survey, as well as from the states of Missouri, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. Several other potential agencies, states, and Tribes have informally accepted Cooperating Agency status, but their acceptance letters have not yet been received.



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Upcoming AOP Meetings

Missouri River Basin Water Management developed the Draft 2008-2009 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Missouri River mainstem reservoir system. The Plan shows continued drought conservation resulting in reduced navigation support, reduced hydropower generation, lower than desired reservoir levels and releases (but better than recent years), and a bimodal spring pulse from Gavins Point Dam. The draft is available at the following Web site: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/aop.html>

Public meetings on the Annual Operating Plan were held October 14 through October 17 in Nebraska City, Neb.; Kansas City, Mo.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Fort Peck, Mont.; Bismarck, N.D.; and Pierre, S.D.

Information is courtesy of Jody Farhat

Columbia Bottom Pump Repair and Control Structure Modification 2008

A variation in flow conditions from those prevalent during the design period have resulted in excessive accumulation of river sand in the Columbia Bottom Pump Station. This has contributed to mechanical problems with the pumps and loss of pumping capacity for the Columbia Bottom Wildlife Area. During winter 2007-2008 the Kansas City District began evaluating flow conditions associated with a "hard point," or rock training structure immediately upstream of the pump plant intakes, in order to limit sand accumulation around the intake screens. During summer 2008, the district designed modifications to the pump well to aid in control of the accumulation of sand around the pumps.

The St. Louis District has performed a number of hydrographic surveys of the area around the intake screens over the last year in support of efforts to modify the hard point. During winter 2007-2008, Kansas City District construction crews made initial modifications to the hard points to direct scour toward the intake screens and to remove an accumulation of rock near the screens that was causing eddying and sand deposition. Later surveys by St. Louis District showed some improvement but indicated that additional modifications to the hard point would be beneficial. The two districts are currently mobilizing for a second round of construction work to remove additional rock from the vicinity of the intake screens.

A construction contract was awarded in September 2008 to Kingston Environmental Services to remove accumulated sand from the pump pit, install slurry pumps for periodic sediment removal, repair the malfunctioning pump, and upgrade pump seals and power cables. Construction oversight is being provided by St. Louis District, while contract management continues to be handled from the Ft. Leonard Wood Construction Office. The construction is nearly complete as of November 13, 2008.